Battlefield Near Murfreesboro Jany. 3, 1862 [1863]

My Dear Margaret,

Oh how glad would I be to communicate with you in a reasonable time. We have had three days terrible fighting here and the contest not decided. But our men are very hopeful. I heard from James last night, he has not yet been hurt - have not heard from him today. My dear I am unable to write how I feel when I get time I will try to write you at length. How thankful should we be! God grant the soldiers protection. I think our army will be successful. Captain Powre'/ wounded not seriously, William Munford slightly. Milton Munford taken prisoner, but he will be returned in a few days or as soon as the fight is over. Elias Skelton & Henry Curl killed. 102 killed and wounded in the 58th. About 20 killed the rest wounded and generally doing well. At least 1,000 killed and wounded in our division. I have that many under my care. Oh my dear it is terrible beyond description. It is astonishing to see anybody come out alive. Dearest we should be thankful that my life so far has been spared. If I ever see you I will try to give you some idea of the scene. I stood on a high hill collecting the wounded the entire day of the first day's fight and saw the two armies contending. Oh how often I would wish for the sun to go down and stop the fearful contest. I felt as if Joshua had commanded it to stand still. My fine little man saved me from being captured by running. Ira Wilson is all right. Dr. Adams is well. Write a note to Mrs. Adams at Petersburg. Dr. Holtzman was captured. I do not know when the contest will be over but feel pretty confident of success now. Must now stop and go to work. Will write again as soon as the struggle is over.

Goodbye,

Your loving husband,

W. W. Blair

Medil Meda - Was BLAIR Medical Director, woods Dujant The ficto 1-3 [1863?] = 02 20, pt 1 pp 221, 1163, 1174 true (mufices love My Sear Maryant how golad word Juny 3 47862 It to comminicale tois you for a reasonable time - the have hew three days twill fighting fren and the ently-out died. Itul-Ou one are any hopeful. - or hined from lasmo last-tringlet he had suit-thered me sunth to / write by thet. When I get time pill try to word should un the good ground to mide protection. I think out giring trick la sur ausful. Capit Source, poured not- Sereout, . Am Thringind, sky htty will be returned in a few Day, is as soon as the fight- is over, Elias Stalten & Henry Court Milled. _ 102 Milled and the und-unided and groundly doing Di- our Sivision - Thun That many Not to be reproduced without permission of IRDIARA HISTORICAL SOCIFTY

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Battlefield Near Murfreesboro Jany. 4th 12N.

My Dear Margaret,

It is about noon and the battle has ceased for the present and my dear I hope forever. Oh you can have no idea of what it is like - but first I heard from James three hours ago. well and as eager for the as ever. As he was going on the field I bade him goodbye scarcely hoping to see him again. But God in his mercy has seen fit to spare us both. You will unite with me in sending thanks for our protection. I wish I could but see you to tell you some of what has taken place. Various reports will be written of the fight and from there you can gleam something of an idea of the engagement. Since the war began there has been no harder fighting. The two armies have now been on the same ground respectively since the evening of Dec. 30th/62. On the morning of the 31st our right wing under command of McCook was surprised and one division (Johnson's I think) retreated in utter confusion and came very nearly ruining our whole army. Such a terrible scene!!! I can now imagine what "Bullrun" was.

The Rebel cavalry ran in and for a time took possession of my division's hospital and I escaped by my horse. After getting out of their musket range I stopped and tried to rally some men who were straggling back to the rear and go back and drive them out of the hospital, but neither bugging, coaxing, shaming or threatening would induce the cowardly scoundrels to go back with me., Failing in this I then went on to the main battlefield hoping to get a regiment to come to the relief of my hospital, but when I got there the confusion was little better in the rear. I found my ambulances scattered every where and at once began to collect and direct them, and I remained there in full view of the fight - until 3 1/2 p.m. Oh my dear, what a day. I thought the sun was never, never going to go down. Since then I have been superintending my hospital - containing about 1,000 wounded. I have the credit of having taken care of more men and of keeping my camp in better condition than any other Med. unit on the field. But I have worked faithfully my self, and have made everybody else under me work. I have just heard that the Rebels have evacuated Murfreesboro. I hope it is so for I don't want to see them again.

Since the battle commenced, all idea of getting to Louisville has for the present been abandoned. I do not know how soon we can get our wounded transferred to hospitals, but until that is done and until there is no prospect of an immediate battle, I could not honorably leave my post of duty. I have heard nothing from Washington yet nor from home since we left Nashville. But I suppose the mail will begin to run soon. I want you to hear

from me, for I know you will spend many anxious hours, when you hear that a battle is going on here - oh dear when will the terrible strife be over?

But my dear I must stop and go to work. You will have to put up with short letters now for a while -

Goodby, my dear,

Yours,

William

Write to Bloomington and to James Blair that I am safely through another battle.

5881Nd, BLAIR 1-4-1863

Sauce 11th 12 m. 1863 (My wend Margaret It is eathort mound, and the battle this ocased for the present, and are strand thoje. for eno, the you can han no item of what it is like, - but fuit I him find danies Three hours ago, he is well, and as engue for file I but him goodby, search, hoping Den him again, but Evil his medica, has seen fit Depun us loth, der will finite with me in undring thanks for one protection, I wish Level but en your to tett gris some of what has to him hereing and from Them you can glean something of the ion of the magazinent, line the war Ligar Then has buil no haider highling, The tur amin har now burd on the varie grand prepuetial, ; since The wining of the 30 1/62 At Thornbring of The 31st our hight thing mude Command of Mileroh was Surprised sie one xivision X Johnson's think) retreated in with whole army, Such a timitel seemelled Caw now imagine what "Bullnum" was.

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Battlefield near Murfreesboro Jany. 8th, 1863

My dear Margaret,

I am still here on this field of carnage and death. My estimate of 20,000 killed and wounded is very nearly correct — of course you will see glowing accounts of our victory but you can just believe a small portion of that, for we came very near being ruined ourselves. I have my camp reduced now to about 500 and will send perhaps 300 of them to Nashville tomorrow.

I have been very much exhausted by the work, but I am getting the hardest of my work over and will have time to rest and recruit up a little. All of my things were sent back to Nashville during the fight, but they were all brought up this morning and I will get the use of them today.

We of course know nothing of when we will have to fight again but the Rebels will be ready as soon as we.

Dr. , a classmate of mine, just now called to see me and will take this note to Nashville. I hope to hear from you as boats are arriving at Nashville as the doctor is waiting on me to get through. I wish you would write Bloomington and James Blair as I have not time to write more than to you.

From you loving husband,

W. W. Blair

Battlefield from Munfausborn Lung 8" 1863. My Dear Maryant - Lam still him on this field of carnage and deald, may estimate of 20,000 hills. and wounded is very much correct; - of come you will see glowing accounts of our victory but you can just bellion a small portion of that, for our come very much bring rund auxilors. Than my camp where now to about STT, and will send purpages 300 of Them to Narhville tornovion. I have been very much whanted by the work, but I am getting the hundred of my unds on, and will have time to rest and deerwie up a little, all my things were sent buch At Nowhich during the fight, but they are all brought up this mining valuite gotthe for of sound known inthing of when we will have Dfight - again bell-to Publs will he ready as soon as us. In both a Classmate of min, just now earled Dem one and will take this noted today se boots an arriving at tarkville as 196 do is waiting, on me to get through Sink you would wit - DB looming to 3 Samuel Blair go the put - time Dunic mon them Dyon loving husband

Battlefield near Murfreesboro, TN Jany. 8th, 8 p.m., 1863

Well My Dear,

Again I am enjoying my tent. I have had a pretty hard life of it since we left Nashville. I have not had my clothes off since then, but as soon as I finish this letter I shall take them off and go to bed right. I had my tent and all my things brought out but on the 1st inst. All baggage teams were ordered back to Nashville - that shows you that victory was not altogether sure to our side - and I just got them back since dinner today. Tonight I feel quite "at home" compared with my situation for ten days past. My rest is likely to be disturbed by the groans of the wounded during the night - but my it will be so much more comfortable that I think I can sleep.

Genl. Wood has made an official report of our movements up to the night of the 31st. I have not seen it nor do I know the character of it, but I feel safe in saying that when you see it you can rely upon the statements it contains. He is not given to exaggeration. He will give a plain and intelligible statement of facts as they occurred. The report I understand , hence you will have the will be published in the opportunity of seeing it. The Genl. was slightly wounded and being very unwell was sent to Nashville that night after the severe battle. I was sorry to see him leave, but things have gone along pretty well since. Rosecrans has behaved very well. During the fight, except he was not up with us on the evening of the 30th as he should have been. He is a great favorite with the private soldiers. He goes around amongst them and talks to them and that pleases them very much. I just received your letter of the 28th and 30th this evening - and of course was very glad to get it. I am surprised that Hight would write such a letter home. The books Mc sent were tumbled into a box amongst the medical stores of our regiment and hauled around march after march. Some were used for wrapping paper, a few were given to the negroes, but the boys gave the greater part of them to the natives as we marched through there to get rid of hauling them. But for me the books would have been thrown out at the side of the road. As to them bring a school for he . I am at the first of it. I asked niggers at our any "boy" if ever there had been a school there. He said, "dey was trien to learn a little for a night or two, but they dun quit that long ago". "Didn't none of them learn nuthin nohow" and I think these are very nearly the facts in the case. It is astonishing that army correspondents have such a propersity to exaggerate. It seems impossible to give a simple statement of facts. But one thing I must say for Mr. Hight he has really been making himself quite useful since the fight.

I would like to give you something of a history of the battle but my observation was limited to our part of the field. That on which our Division fought, and of that Gen. Wood's official report will give you a better account than I can give you for I could just see that they were our troops and see them fighting and see the Rebels shooting at them, but could not distinguish our Regiment from another. The shells and balls frequently fell around where I was most of the day, but it did not occasion a feeling of fear, but of the most intense anxiety, for the manner in which our right wing under McCook acted in the morning, made me feel exceedingly doubtful as to the result, and we were in a terrible place for the enemy were in front and Stones River was in our rear and that could be crossed only in a few places. And if they had defeated us we could not have taken any of our transportation out. But in the providence of God it was ordered otherwise and I hope that the terrible slaughter may do some good. There are various rumors in regard to the success or our arms at various points, in KY after Morgan, at Vicksburg & c. & c. but our newspapers are so prone to tell fabulous stories that these reports have to be received with a great deal of care. I hope they may be true for no one desires a successful issue more than I. To read the papers one would think that at the inspiration of every battle the thing will be about wound up, but unfortunately we find that is not the case. I must now stop and go to bed as I am very sleepy. Praying for a nights rest and protection I will say Goodby.

Jany. 9th 1863

My dear - I have had a fine nights rest and feel a great deal the better of it. I am sending off another lot of wounded men this morning and will send this letter to Nashville by some of them. A large mail came out last night but it has not been distributed yet. I expect to get another letter or two from you today. There is nothing new here. I expect to get this camp reduced in a few days so that I can get back to will have a number of wounded that they cannot be moved for some weeks. Those I will leave in charge of two or three surgeons and as many nurses as are necessary and then send all the rest of their regiments and go to myself. I am glad you are getting your wood in. Hope you will get along comfortably. Have not heard and scarcely thought of the box of sausage but as I get relief from the wounded I will begin to think more of my own comfort. I want to take a ride over the battlefield again before I leave this point. Our camp is just at one edge of it. We have literally ruined a very magnificent country residence here by putting the wounded in and around the house and yard. But I have but little sympathy for the owners as they are Rebels.

From your loving husband,

William

Battlefield Arav Munfrustrio In. Jany 8th 8. P. M. 1863

Well my draw

has a pretty had life of it since in left trackville I have not had my clother off since the left trackville I have not had my clother off since them but as some as I finish this letter I shall take them off of growth out but on the 1st hour. all baggage term that victory was not altogether sure down side - and I just got them but since dimen today might I fut guil "at home" compand with my situation for ten days part, my rest is likely. In disturbed by the growns of the lovered during the might, but my the will be somether more completed that I think I can sleep.

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hashville that night after the seven battle, I was sorry To see him lean, but things have gone along pritty well. since, Roserous has behaved very well. Fring the fight; except he was not up with us on the evening of the 3000 as he should have been. He is a great favorite with The private soldiers. At goes around amongst Them and telks & Them and that pleases them my much. I just pied your letter of the 28" & 30" This enming and of course was very, glad to get it; Lam purpied That Hight would write such a letter home, In book me sent were tumbled into a bose amongst the medical stones of our Bust and handed around _ much aftermarch, - some um mend for wrapping paper a few won given It myrows, but the boys gan the quater part of them It the nations of they are ser mark for me tooks would have but thrown out at the pids of the road, as Ithen hing a school forthe niggins at our Strad Ir. I am at the first of it. asked any "boy" if won then has been a school there At said! "day was trien to learn a little for a nightno two, but dry dum quit that long ago" "try didnenone of in learn muthin nohow" - and I think there an very meatly the facts in the case . It is aston johing that army correspondents have such a propen pity to exaggirate - It sums impossible to you a simple statement of facts, But one Thing I must pay for Mr Hight he has nally bur making him self quite useful since the fight, Not to be reproduced without permission of

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Immist now stop and you dow, as I am my slegging Praying for a nights - nest and protection Issued. My brow - I have hid a fine nights net and fill a great deal the better of it, Lam sending off another lot of winds men this morning and will sind this fitter to Nachrille by some the a large mail came out last night-but it has not been distributed get, Linguet by I another letter new hom! I espect to get this carrier thouse in a few days so That Lean go back to the Is, Its will have a much of cases so badly wounded that They cannot be more for some works. - Whom Levil have in charge of two or three Surgers and assuran nucles as an meessany and _ Then sendall the rest to their Regts, bred go to How Ironnyal Sam glew you are getting your wood in head, and search, Thought - of the bose of sousage but as Lyst relief from the wounded willbyin Thinks more of my own comfort, -I want the a nior own the battle field again before I have this point, our camp is just at one edge of it - - the han litterally ruine a very Most to be reproduced without permission of Mallian

Head. Qtrs. 1" Division 21"
Murfreesboro, Tenn Feby. 22, 1863

My Dear Margaret,

Another week has passed - it is now Sabbath night and I am alone - yes alone even in the midst of a multitude, alone when compared with the enjoyment of home and its endearments. Notwithstanding I have some kind friends and men who have acted nobly towards me here. Yet I will bid them all advice for the loved ones at home. It think if Milton Munford regrets leaving the army he doesn't regret it enough to come back into it. I don't think his wife need be at all alarmed about his coming back. I would like to hear from him to know how he feels. This brings the anniversary of the birth of Washington. There was some demonstrations this morning, in memory of that event. Each Division had a National Salute of thirty four guns fired near their Head Qtrs. just at sundown. There must be as many as 10 divisions here which would make 340 rounds. It sounded a little like the eventful 31" of Dec. yet I could stand behind our guns with a much greater degree of safety and complacency than upon the day of the battle.

For this evening there was nobody shooting back and nothing but powder used in our cannons. I see by the papers that extensive preparations are being made to celebrate the day tomorrow. I am invited out to dinner tomorrow by Dr. Todd, one of the Surgeons of our Division. Dr. Huse the man whom I left in charge of the Field Hospital is to accompany me. Dr. Glick would have been invited had he been here, but he will take dinner with his wife if he is able to at all. He left here in very poor health. He had irritation of the spine - of the same nature of Robert's attack only not nearly so severe. Yet I will not be surprised if he is unable to return to the service. I thought this morning when I got up that I would go out somewhere today but the day was cold and disagreeable and I just kept my tent all day. Read my testament for a while then Shakespeare! Then the Louisville Journal and as soon as I get through writing will go to bed and read the testament until I go to sleep. I read myself to sleep every night - or something, and then wake up before daylight every morning - but I don't get up until "Nat" comes and makes a fire for me to get up by. I have my tent nicely fixed - have a floor in it - a piece of "matting" to lay by the side of my bed.

We have never been so long in one place since we came out, and we will have to stay here for sometime yet, being completely "_____ bound". The army will not be able to start out any sooner that it did last year. We left Nashville on the 29th of March for Shiloh, but where we will go this year seems hard to tell. It would not surprise me much if the contest would be in

the region of Vicksburgh, but no one can tell. If we should have to go down there we would not hear from home so regularly and we get the Cincinatti Commercial very regularly at two days old. But my letters seem to be much longer getting out form the length of time you run without hearing from me. From the way the papers talk we, down here, think things are improving some in the North. I really feel some better as to the conditions of things at home. The impression of sentiment by the army has had something to do with straightening things up though, and if we could not get a good victory we would entirely put down this copperhead Democracy. But that will require some work on our part and involve the loss of many a dear life.

I received a letter yesterday from Dr. Wylie saying he had rec'd a telegram stating that those boxes had been shipped on the 16" which would give them ample time to get to Nashville by After I came to Nashville I telegraphed Evansville this time. to have the boxes sihpped to Dr. Wylie so that he could be there to take care of their arrival. I have some hope now of getting, but for sometime past I had about given them up as gone. If I get them through and delivered its the last set of boxes that I will undertake to bring to the army and shall try and make out on what I can get by myself, however pleasant it might be to get things from home. I think I will be able to get those things from home. I do not know what the people at home think about my not getting along with them any better than I did, but I know it was not from any neglect or mismanagement of mine. It was simply one of those things, although extremely annoying - yet could not be avoided. I hope to live long enough to pay, that contemptible thing in the shape of a man Baird for his conduct towards me. Burr Polk showed himself extremely small in the matter too, though of that I don't wish to speak for he did anything that was very tangible, yet he was manifestly afraid to talk to me in the presence of Baird. He acted more like a whipped dog than anything else, but I don't wish to bring his name in, or refer to him out of the family. Maybe I'd be afraid to talk to an acquaintance of mine in the presence of Gen1. that Burr Polk's name is before Wood!! I see by the congress for the position of Asst. Adjt. Genl. Yaryan, one of Genl. Woods' aids made a rough but yet one of the truest remarks a few days ago in regard to aids and Adjt. Genls. that I have heard in a long time. He said there were more d___d fools acting in that capacity than in any other department of the army. Burr however is not a fool yet he lacks manliness. His appointment to that position will make Joe Fleming Capt. of that company. Henderson told me that Joe was Company officer in the Regt. and his men liked him very much. How did Mrs. Mangram get along up at Louisville. I pity the poor woman. Andy felt very much mortified that he did not get to see her. The 33rd has not come into this vicinity yet. The boys in the Regts. here are very anxious to see them. But my dear I must now stop for tonight praying for a nights rest and protection for us all. May write a little in the morning before breakfast. I guess you are all in bed by this time - all but you anyhow.

Good night.

Good Morning My Dear - I have had a comfortable sleep and hope you have too. It was quite late before I got to sleep. My feet got cold and i had to get up and make a fire and warm them. If I had been at home I would not have had that trouble, I could have put them beside yours! The ground is frozen this morning quite cold - the coldest since my return, but it will not last long. My rest during the middle of the night was disturbed some by some men who had been celebrating Washington's birthday by a drunken rivalry, but after all became quite I slept very comfortably. I am going over to the 58th this morning to see if I can collect any money on my old accounts there. By the time I get back to the Regt. and get everything paid up. I had but about 20___left. But I hope I an collect enough to keep me. I want to keep just as little on my hand as I can possibly get along with. If I should need any from home I will let you know in time. It is Breakfast now. Goodby.

From your loving husband,

W. W. Blair

2-22-1863 PLAIR Not to be reproduced without permission of INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY William Henry Smith Momorial Library Head Is 1" birision 21.0.le. Murfues brown Febry 22 1863 My Draw Maryant another week has passed - it is now sathatt night, - and Law alone - yes. alom wow in in midst of a multitude, alon whow compand with the injugacit of home and its, indiasmints, - Ast withstanding I have some kind friends and men who have lacted nobly toward me him. yet Juice bid them all adien, for the love ones at home. - Ithink if Miller Munford rights leaving the army. The drisht right it mough Henry back into it, I that think his wife mud be at all alarmin, about his coming back, Swould like thear from him, - to know how how he fuls, - This tring the anniversary of the bith of Washington, then was some dimenstra tions this enrichy, in memory of that went, Each Division had a National Salute of Whinty from your fine man Thin Atalles. just at Sun Fran ,- The must be as many as 10 bins ions hun. which would make 340 "hounds"- it founded a little like the wentful 31" of Sec. gut- Level stand behind and guns with a smuch qualis degree of safety and complanences Them upon the day of the buttle,

For this enning then was nobody shooting buch and-nothing but powder und in our cannon, Isu by The papers that entensin preparations and him made to celebrate to day temorrow, - I am inco ted out & dinner tohionow by Dold on of The Singums of this Sivision, - No Diese the man which Slift in charge of the Field Hospitel is to accompany on, - do Blick would have brin jurited Had her brow hom. but he will take dinon with his wife if he is able Dial atall, - It left him in very poor health - At has irritation of the spined - of the same nature of Profits at tack only not meanly so seven, get I will not In surprised if he is unable to petern dethe get up that I would go out somewhim today but the day was cold and disagruable and just frept my tout all day, - read my tests must a while the Shahedpeane, - them the Louisville Commet, - and as soon as I get Through writing will go of the and read the tester ment untill I go to slup, - I read myself to plup my gright on something, and them wake up / before daylight every thurning - but Lower get up untill "hat" lemus and makes of fine from they up by, I have my tens micely fined - have a flow in it - alpice of "matting" to lay by the sid of my bow, &

Un han now brin so long in on place sime us came out, _ and us will have to stay him for some time get. - bring completely "must bound" The army will not be able to start out any some Than it did last year, - us left tack with on the 29th of March. - for Shiloh, - but when us will go This year seines. hard to tell, It would not sun price one much if the contest would be in the region of Oreks burgh, but no our can tell, If un should han Doyn down then un would not hear from home so regularly, - now you letters come through may soon, the one you mailed on the 19" I reid on tho 19" - but they don't come that quick regularly, - and ser get The limitimate Communicial pary regularly at tur days old - But my letter sum to h hunch Chrysin getting out from the length of time you non without hearing from me The papers talk in Jour him, Think things are ince proving some in the booth, - I really ful some billed as with condition of things at thome, The inpression of sentiment by the army has had something to to with straightening things up Three , I and if un could now get in you ton, us would intirtly put I due This Copper hand Almorace, - but that will require som und, all our part, and invola many a dear life, INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

I suid a lettre yesterday from do Mylie saying he had need a Telegram stating that thou bones had bun shipped on the 16" which would gin them ample time to get to chash view, by this time - after learn to back will I tite graphed to boursville to have the bours shipped to do orylin so that he could be them to take can of them on their arrival, I have some hope now of getting, but for some time past I had about given them up as your. If dyet Them through and delivered -its the last set of boxes that Suill undertake to bring to the arm and Ishall try and make out oh what I can get hun ampself, - however pleasant it might Or Dyet- Things from home. _ Ithink I will be able Dist those Things her sometime this unh if they wow come, I do not know what the people at home think about my not getting along with them any better than I die, but I know it - pear not from any mylect or mis management of mine, It was simply one of those things, although entremely annoying - yet could not to avoided, I hope to live long enough to pay, that continget able thing - in the shape of a man. In his / enduct toward in. - Bur Polh show thiswall entremely small in the matter too, though of that I don't winh to aprak, for he did nothing That was very tangible, but he was manifestly applied To talk to who inf the preference of Baind! He acted mon like a whipped day than any thing elec. but Idout with to thing his mann int or refer to him

MANA HISTURICAL SOCIETY out of the funity. May the Library may the List afrais or ashamed to talk Dan beginnintance in to presence of bent (hood! , - I such, The loom that Bur Polh's name is before Congress for the position of asst adjet Simil. -Garyan - on of Soul Provis aid - made a hough but get one of the trust remarks a fut days agre, in signed to aid and Edjit buils, That I have hear in a long thim, It said then um mon d-d fools Octioner in that capacity than in any other depletoment of The along, - Bur howen is not a fool yet he lacks manlinus -His appointment - What position will make In Flerning leapt of the company, Anderson told mu that Ise was decidedly the but Company affice in the Buyt, - and his men like him very much . - How did Mrs Mungavan get alon up at Louisville, Spity the poor soman, andil felt very much mortified that he did not get Do see ther, - The 33 have not come into This ricinity get, - The boys in the Reyto him among anxious & su thing, But Many Draw Inman now stop for toright - praying for a nights put and production for us all, - may write a little in the maring before break fact -Lynns you are all in but by this time, all but you any how, - Good night,

- my deen - Ihan had good maring a comfortable slug - and hope you have two It was quite late before algot to sleep - my fut got cold and I had to get up and much I fin and warm them If I had bon at how Swords not have had that troubly I could be put the brids yours! - The ground is frozen This municy - quite cold the coldres sime my return, but it will must last low my relet - Juing the middle of the night was disturbed shown by some me who had bun celebrating Washington's birthday he a drunken revelry, - but after all broken quist Islept work comfortably, _ Sum go ing over tothe & gt Thismaning to su if Sear collect any money on my of accounts then By the Time Lyst- buch & the Reyt and get enything paid up, Ihad but about 20 He But I hope I can collect - mough & trup one as lear possibly get along with, IfI should and along from the from home Suice lety hower, in time _ It is Brishful - non Goodby Jour your loving husband Not to be reproduced without permission of INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY William Henry Smith Memorial Library

Head. Qrs. 1" Div. 21"
Murfreesboro, Tenn March 18, 1863

My dear Margaret,

Although I have little to write yet - it is the middle of the week and you will no doubt be willing to get a letter by the time this reaches you. We have had a grand "Review" here today of this Army Corps. It is hardly possible to give you a full idea of a review by letter, but I can tell you something about. The troops were all ordered out in full dress and all their accouterments on. The Regiments of each division (there are three divisions in this Corps) are stationed in a line two deep which make a line more than half a mile long. Our division was stationed in front - them about a hundred yards in the rear of ours - Gen. Palmer's Division and the same distance in rear of that was Van Cleve. I took a position out in front. (I would have been in the rear if it had been a battle!) a little distance off so that I could see the entire army about 8,000 ran out - the remaining 5,000 in this Corps were on duty at various places. Gen. Rosecrans made his appearance and with his staff officers rode down the front line taking his hat entirely off as he passed the flag of each Regiment. When he reached the front of the line, which did not take him long for he had a splendid horse and rode at a rapid gait he turned and rode quietly and leisurely up in rear of the line, to the head stopping frequently to talk to the private soldiers. He then rode down and up the other divisions in the same manner. He then came around in front and took a position near the center and the entire force marched in review before him, each Regiment of course trying to do their best marching. Some of them marched beautifully. The Artillery of each Division was stationed along at intervals between the Regiments. The sight was a very beautiful one. I wished many a time whilst it was going on that you could have been here to see it. I thought too, how nice how magnificent it would have been if this had been at the close of the war. I could then have enjoyed it. But as it was it rather made me sad. Our army is again in good condition. Many of those back about Hospitals and deserters through the states are being brought up and by the first of May we will have a more efficient army than ever we had. Mrs. Rosecrans is here now and rode out and witnessed the review today. I was not near enough to her to see her personal appearance but she is said to be rather a plain looking lady. Mrs. Wood is also here making a visit. I met the Genl. out here on the road a few days since. They stopped and gave me an introduction, and asked me to call and see them but I have not done so and do not suppose that I will, she will of course enjoy the Genl's. company better than that of strangers. - Well my dear I must stop for tonight and may write a little more in the morning. As ever your affectionate husband William

Thursday Morning 19th

Your letter of the 13" mailed the 14" came on the 17". I am glad Andy Wright still gets a little something to meet current expenses — but you can just keep that and use it at home. I will be able to get along here until I can get some from the Govt. Scott is making a great affair of his trial indeed. The idea of a preacher (he is a disgrace to the church) calling on Tim French, I. V. Hill, & c. to prove his character is rather too ridiculous to take place in a civilized country. He would make an excellent inhabitant for Utah. Brigham Young would be a very suitable associate for him and I have no doubt is as good a man at heart and has just as much religion.

A lot of contraband came in yesterday morning bringing three horses - one of them a pretty good black horse six years old. told Mister ____ that I would take care of that horse whereupon he was soon haltered up in my stable. My mare will soon have a colt and if I have to account to the Government for the horse I will turn over the mare and keep the horse - a very convenient way of swapping - generally it takes two to make a trade, but this way it only takes one. I intend to try to keep this horse for the one the Rebels took from me if I can. James got his peaches all right, I never thought to speak of them. I have not seen him since I wrote last. Joe Minnis is here. Don't know what he is after. He knew nothing of matters at home that was of any interest to me. He says he is not able to be a soldier on account of a sore leg. But unless he has some business here he would be as well at home trying to raise some corn for those who are out. If the conscription should be enforced this spring it will surely make laborers somewhat scarce at home. I believe I will send a package of your letters home by him. It will save me from carrying them around with me and I'd not like to lose and destroy them. I will just give him the package and not tell him anything about what it is - as you will get this letter sometime before he gets home as he is intending to stop at the 80th. My contraband horse looks very well this morning. I think he is going to be a pretty fair animal. He would about make up what I lost at Fayetteville. A number of our friends are lying in jail and have been all winter. They have a terrible time - not any worse however than many men who have gone from the north. I had a fine nights sleep - a little lonely! The buds are beginning to swell on the trees here now. A few days of such weather as we have now will give us a green forest again. But no preparation for farming for two reasons. The people have no horses or mules left to use and but for negroes to use them. If the whole Southern Confederacy was like it is around here and between here and Nashville, a few months more would wind it up. unfortunately away from our army they can go on with their work as usual. It looks a little like raining this morning. My breakfast will soon be ready. Good morning. I expect a letter from you today.

As ever yours,

William

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INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Atea Des 1" Siver 21" Ole. Menfrusten Tim March 18" 181.3

My Dear Marganis although I have little to write gut it is the middle of the work. and you will nodoule-As willing Dyet a letter by the line this reachesyou Me han had a grand "Review" here today, of this Same, leops. - It is hardly possible to give you a full idea of a Review by letter, - but leave tell you somethings about; - The troops are all ordered our out in full dress: and all this accordinguesty on, -The Regiments of each Division of them an three Division in this leagues an stationed in a lim. - two day which makes a lim mon than half a mile long. One Division, was stationed in front. - Then about a hundred yards in the man of our's. - Bent Palmus Sinsin, and The same distance in now of that was ban blen, Stock a position out in front. Cluveld handen in the rear if it had brun a battle!) a little distance off. so that I would see the entire army, about 8,000, um out - The remaining stor, in this learns were on July at various places, _ But Roverous med his appearance, and with his steff officers root Joun the front line taking his hat entirely off as he passed the flay of each Regionent when he reached The fout of the lime, which did not toke him long for he had a splended horse, and not are rapid gait.

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3-18-1863 INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY Junday maraing . 19 William Henry Smith Memorial Library The 14" Carne on the 17". Dam glad Andy Fright still gets a little something to must current engines. _ but you can just heep that and use it at home. I will be able Deget along from untill clean get some from the sovi - Scott is of a preacher. - (he is a disgraw to the church) calling on Sim French . I V. Hill be Dopon his character is pathed too rediculous. Dtake plan in a civilized coun try, He would make an excellent - inhabitant - for , Brigham Grung would to a very Ruitable association for him, and I have no doubt is as good a mon as hunt and has just as much religion, a lat of centrebands carn in yesterday morning bringing then homes - one of them a prity good black horn sin yours old . _ I told minter this That Iwould take can of that horse, - wheneyou he was som heltered up in my stable, - Ony man pill som han a coll, and if I han to account to the Soil for the horn. Suill turn own the man and trup to how, a very comment of swapping, - generally it takes tur Denahe a trade, but this way it long takes on. Lintend A try & hup this horn for the on the Bebils took from me, if lean, - lanus got his praches all right, I nion thought to speak of them - I have not Sun him since I wrot last .- Lor Minnis is hun. Sout know what he is after, - He know

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